

ABSTRACT

An apparatus for extracting an obstruction located in a patient's vessel by fragmenting the obstruction and conveying fragments of the obstruction through the apparatus and out of the patient's body, comprising a flexible-tube, having an open distal end, and connectable to a negative pressure. A motor-rotated, flexible, spiral conveyor-shaft disposed in the flexible tube conveys the obstruction fragments, cooperatively with the negative pressure, through the flexible tube. An offset agitator is connected to and is rotated by the flexible conveyor-shaft to fragment the obstruction. The offset-agitator can be moved in and out of the flexible tube, through the open distal end, to adjust its effective diameter.